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PEACE BY MARCH?

A conference to sign a peace treaty with Germany should be held in March in either Warsaw or Prague, the Soviet Union proposed on January 11th.

The peace treaty should be signed on one hand by all states which fought against Germany in the Second World War, and on the other side by the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic. If a German Confederation should have been formed by the time of the peace conference, then the Confederation should sign the treaty as well as the two German states. In any case, the Soviet Union proposed, the two German states should agree on the form in which the two states should participate in the preparation and signing of the treaty.

If the western powers should wish for preliminary consultations before the full-scale peace conference, the Soviet Union would agree to Four Power talks to which representatives of the two German states should also be invited.

Simultaneously the Soviet Union published the draft for a peace treaty with Germany. Main points of this draft were:

1. Germany should be neutralised, and the two German states should leave the NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

2. Germany should be permitted limited defensive forces, but nuclear weapons, rockets and submarines would be banned.

3. The frontiers of Germany would be those of January 1st 1959, and Germany should renounce all claims to the Oder-Neisse territories, the Sudeten area, Alsace-Lorraine, and Austria.

4. Germany would guarantee all human rights, with the limitation that the Nazi Party and all similar parties, particularly parties demanding a revision of German frontiers, should be banned. All organisations directed against the allies, in particular emigrant organisations, should be banned.

5. Until the reunification of Germany, the two German states shall accept as their frontier the demarcation line existing on January 1st 1959; West Berlin should be a demilitarised Free City.

6. All foreign troops should be withdrawn from Germany within one year of the peace treaty coming into force.

(Details of the draft peace treaty came to hand too late for full treatment in this issue of GERMAN REPORT. A full summary of the draft peace treaty will be given in the next issue.)

Afro-Asian Welcome for Grotewohl

Recognition Talks with Irak - Consular Exchange with Egypt

Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, was cordially welcomed in Egypt and Irak on the first stages of his Afro-Asian journey in early January.

First positive results of the journey were an agreement with Egypt for the exchange of consular representatives, and an agreement with Irak to study the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Prime Minister Grotewohl, accompanied by a large delegation of political and scientific personalities from the Democratic Republic, was given VIP treatment when he arrived in Cairo on January 4th.

Immediately after his arrival he was decorated by President Abdel Nasser with the "Order of the Nile", the highest Egyptian decoration. During the visit Prime Minister

Grotewohl had two long talks with President Nasser.

Leaving Cairo on January 7th, Prime Minister Grotewohl announced that the two countries had agreed to exchange General Consulates as a step towards broadening the present cooperation.

The visit of the statesmen from Democratic Germany in Irak was marked by public demonstrations of friendship. The cars of the visitors were often held up by crowds wishing to shake hands with Otto Grotewohl.

An official communique issued at the conclusion of the visit stated: "Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, and Abdul Kerim Kassem, Prime Minister of the Irak Republic held discussions of the international situation... They reached full agreement

in their attitude towards important international problems... The Prime Minister of the Irak Republic is convinced that the Government and population of the German Democratic Republic give consistent support to the national liberation struggle of the Arab peoples. Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl notes with pleasure the opinion of the Government of the Irak Republic that the reunification of Germany is an affair for the German people themselves...

"The two sides agreed to study the question of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Irak Republic, and the exchange of political representatives."

In the further course of his journey, Prime Minister Grotewohl was scheduled to visit India, Democratic Vietnam, and China.

The Facts on West Berlin

Democratic Germany Submits Memorandum

On January 9th the Government of the German Democratic Republic published a long memorandum setting out in detail its reasons for supporting the Soviet proposals for the establishment of a demilitarised West Berlin Free City. Since the case for the Free City proposal has received very little publicity in the western press, GERMAN REPORT presents on these pages a very full summary of this official memorandum:

In order to understand fully the present situation in West Berlin it is necessary to view this situation in connection with post-war developments in Germany.

After Hitlerite fascism and its state machinery had been smashed in 1945 the need of all nations for a lasting peace, and the national interests of the German people, demanded that Germany should take the road of a thorough-going democratic and peaceful reorganization of its social life. This was also the declared war aim of the Anti-Hitler Coalition Powers, as defined in the Moscow and Teheran declarations of 1943, and in the declaration of the Crimea Conference on February 11th, 1945.

The military victory of the Anti-Hitler Coalition was followed by the occupation of Germany, which had the aim of implementing the principles of the common policy of the Anti-Hitler Coalition Powers regarding future development in Germany defined in the Declarations of Teheran and Yalta and finally collected and formulated in the Potsdam Agreement of August 2nd 1945. This is expressly emphasized in the Potsdam Agreement, which states:

"The purpose of this agreement is to carry out the Crimea declaration on Germany. German militarism and nazism will be extirpated and the Allies will take in agreement together, now and in future, the other measures necessary to assure that Germany never again will threaten her neighbours or the peace of the world."

Thus the Four Powers once again solemnly declared their unshakable will to eradicate German militarism and nazism, to prevent for ever its revival, and to take all measures to prevent Germany from again endangering its neighbours or the maintenance of world peace. The participants in the Potsdam Conference declared their determination to prevent all fascist and militarist activity

and propaganda, and pledged themselves to permit and promote all democratic political parties in Germany. The Four Powers further decided upon "the elimination of the existing excessive economic potential" existing in Germany "especially in the form of cartels, syndicates, trusts and other monopolist associations", which had made possible the fascist assumption of power, the fascist aggression and preparation thereof.

The Potsdam Agreement laid down the important obligation for the Four Powers to treat Germany as a whole, even during the period of occupation.

All Four Power agreements on Germany had, as their basis and content, the encouragement of a peaceful and democratic development in Germany. None of the agreements, not excepting the agreements dealing with mainly technical occupation questions concluded by the European Consultative Commission established by the USSR, the USA and the United Kingdom, can be assessed outside the framework of these basic aims. The instructions given to this Commission by the three Governments were in complete conformity with the war aims proclaimed by the Allies. Germany was divided into four occupation zones under the terms of the agreements reached by this Commission on September 12th, 1944 and November 14th, 1944 in the "Statement on the Zones of Occupation in Germany and the Administration of Greater Berlin", and the "Statement on Control Machinery in Germany", which were consolidated in the Four Power Declarations of June 5th, 1945. The Four Power Declaration of June 5th, 1945, "Statement on the Zones of Occupation in Germany", divided Germany for occupational purposes into four zones.

Dealing with the question of supreme authority, the "Statement on Control Machinery in Germany" of June 5th, 1945 laid down in Article 1 that the supreme authority should be exercised by the supreme commanders of the troops of the Four Powers, each separately in his own occupation zone, and jointly in the case of all matters affecting Germany as a whole.

These Four Power documents of 1944 and June 5th, 1945 show that these powers had at no time the intention of making the area of Greater Berlin a fifth occupation

zone in Germany: and no such step was taken at any later date. To separate Berlin from the Soviet Occupation zone would also not have corresponded to the geographic and economic situation of Berlin. A special arrangement was made for Berlin only insofar as the area of Greater Berlin was occupied by troops of each of the Four Powers, and an Inter-Allied Kommandatura was established for the joint administration of Berlin. The "Statement on the Zones of Occupation in Germany" of June 5th, 1945 has this to say in paragraph 2 on the position of Berlin:

"The area of 'Greater Berlin' will be occupied by forces of each of the Four Powers. An Inter-Allied Governing Authority consisting of four Commandants, appointed by their respective Commanders-in-Chief, will be established to direct jointly its administration."

Paragraph 7 of the "Statement on Control Machinery in Germany" of June 5th, 1945 states:

"The administration of the 'Greater Berlin' area will be directed by an Inter-Allied Governing Authority, which will operate under the general direction of the Control Council, and will consist of four Commandants, each of whom will serve in rotation as Chief Commandant..."

The Four Power agreements made a clear distinction between the exercise of supreme authority, which was basically the privilege of the supreme commanders of the troops of the Four Powers in the separate zones, and the administration of the area of Berlin, which forms part of the territory of the Soviet occupation zone.

This special ruling for Berlin was concluded solely because in Berlin, the capital of Germany, the Allied Control Council, the central occupation organ for Germany, took its seat in order to decide on all questions affecting Germany as a whole, and to guarantee a unified occupation policy in the whole of Germany.

There was no change in the supreme authority of the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Forces in Germany over the then Soviet occupation zone, including the area of Berlin, even when the three western powers were given a share in the occupation and administration of Berlin. This

may also be seen from the fact that the installations of the Reichsbahn (railways, trans.) and the waterways in the whole of Berlin remained in Soviet competence, and have been since 1949 in the competence of the German Democratic Republic. It is underlined by the fact that no agreement was concluded on lines of communication between West Berlin and the western zones. After 1945 traffic between West Berlin and West Germany and other states was under the control of the Soviet forces. For a number of years the railway, waterway, autobahn and road traffic between West Berlin and West Germany and other states, with the exception of the supply traffic for the three western garrisons in Berlin, has been under the control of organs of the German Democratic Republic, and no objection has been made to this fact from any side.

The co-occupation and co-administration of Berlin by the western powers was based upon the above mentioned Four Power Agreements and had nothing to do with the withdrawal of troops of the western powers from the temporarily occupied areas of Thuringia, Saxony and Mecklenburg, which belonged to the Soviet occupation zone. The temporary occupation of these areas, which took place in the concluding days of the war, was based solely upon military motives of the supreme military commands in the course of smashing the fascist Wehrmacht. After unconditional surrender and the ending of hostilities, the western troops had the duty to withdraw from these areas under the agreements upon the future occupation zones which had been concluded during the course of the war. In this connection it must be pointed out that the occupation regime has long been ended in these areas and that a sovereign German state, the German Democratic Republic, has developed on the territory of the former Soviet occupation zone.

The New York and Paris Agreements concluded by the Four Powers in 1949 do not affect the position of Berlin, and they made no stipulations about the establishment of lines of communication between West Berlin and West Germany. These agreements contained only rulings deriving from the situation at that time, and which had the aims, as the final communiqué of the Paris Foreign Ministers' Conference stated on August 20th, 1949, of "weakening the present administrative partition of Germany". In the meantime the Bonn Government and the western powers took measures directed against these agreements.

The implementation and fulfilment in all four occupation zones of Germany of the principles and aims laid down in the Four Power agreements

on Germany would have made it possible to create a unified, democratic and peaceable German state in the shortest time historically possible.

In the then Soviet occupation zone all measures agreed upon in Potsdam on the denazification, demilitarisation and democratizing of Germany were immediately tackled and entirely carried out in the course of the following years. The policy of the Soviet Union enabled the democratic forces of the German people, in agreement with the Potsdam Agreement, to carry out such decisive changes of social life in East Germany as the expropriation of the property of the war criminals and active nazis in favour of the people, a comprehensive land reform as a result of which the soil of the Junkers was handed over to the peasants, that means the expropriation of those strata from which the aggressive forces of German militarism were recruited. With the construction of

a democratic administration in East Germany an antifascist-democratic order developed which became continually stronger and which consistently swept away all the remnants of the Hitlerite era in accordance with the principles of the Potsdam Agreement.

Unfortunately the three western powers prevented the implementation in the whole of Germany of all decisive provisions of the Potsdam Agreement.

In Hesse, for instance, paragraph 41 of the Constitution which provided for the nationalisation of the key industries, approved by a great majority in a plebiscite was rejected by the western powers, so that in their zones the foundations of the power of the militarist and reactionary elements were maintained.

In Berlin the implementation of similar decisions of the City Assembly was likewise prevented by the western powers. The aim of the western powers not to carry out the

The Berlin Serial Story

Synopsis: On November 27th, 1958 the Soviet Union proposed that West Berlin should be converted into a demilitarised Free City. On December 18th the NATO Council, meeting in Paris, announced its "full association" with the western powers who had declared they intended to stay in Berlin. On December 21st the Government of the German Democratic Republic declared that NATO had no rights of any kind in West Berlin, and branded the NATO declaration "a flagrant interference". For the latest developments on Berlin, read on here:

December 31st 1958: Britain, France and the USA replied to the Soviet Note on Berlin, declaring that the western occupation garrisons would remain in West Berlin. The British note announced readiness "to discuss the question of Berlin in the wider framework of negotiations for a solution of the German problem as well as that of European security." The British Note further stated: "The French and US Governments and H. M. Government have the right to maintain garrisons in their sectors of Berlin and to have free access thereto. H. M. Government will not accept a unilateral repudiation on the part of the Soviet Government of its obligations in respect of that freedom of access. Nor will they accept the substitution of the regime which the Soviet Government refers to as the German Democratic Republic for the Soviet Government in this respect."

January 5th 1959: The West German Government sent a note to the

Soviet Union stating that it shared the opinions of the three western powers on Berlin. In this note the West German Government claimed that "the elimination of militarism and National Socialism... have been the main foundation of the policy of the Federal Republic since its foundation". Political observers in Berlin described this as one of the most breath-taking observations in modern history.

January 7th 1958: The Government of the German Democratic Republic, in a formal note of reply to the Soviet Note of November 27th, declared its full agreement with the suggested solution of the West Berlin problem. "The Government of the German Democratic Republic is ready to recognise the status of a demilitarised West Berlin Free State, and is ready to enter into guarantees of this status together with the other states involved" this note stated. "The Government of the German Democratic Republic formally declares that it intends to carry out, in a spirit of peaceful understanding, its sovereign rights, including those connected with the land, water and air traffic of the forces of the western powers stationed in West Berlin."

January 9th 1959: The German Democratic Republic published a long memorandum on its attitude towards the problem of West Berlin. Main points from this memorandum are published in this issue of GERMAN REPORT

Potsdam Agreement became obvious as long ago as 1946. The speeches of former British Premier W. Churchill in Fulton, USA, on March 5th, 1946, and of US Secretary of State Byrnes in Stuttgart on September 6th, 1946 signalled the beginning of the systematic breach of the Potsdam Agreement. The preparation and conclusion by the USA and Great Britain of the Washington Agreement of December 2nd, 1946, on the establishment of the Bizone was the starting point for a whole programme for the partitioning of Germany.

The Soviet Union spared no effort in its attempts to prevent this development. At the session of the Allied Control Council in January 1948, for instance, the Soviet representative called for measures for a general German currency reform, since only an all-German currency reform could guarantee the unity of Germany. The representatives of the western powers rejected the proposal without giving any reasons.

The partitioning of Germany was finally effected by the separate currency reform in West Germany on June 20th, 1948, and the creation of the Bonn separatist state on September 7th, 1949.

At the same time as the western powers were breaking their pledge to maintain German unity, they were also breaking the other stipulations of the Potsdam Agreement. The Four Power agreements on the elimination of the power of the monopolies and the decartelisation of the trusts were not implemented: as a result the degree of economic concentration in West Germany today is far higher than it was before and during the Second World War.

Factual material published by the Government of the German Democratic Republic in its "White Book on the Aggressive Policy of the Government of the German Federal Republic", and the "Memorandum on the Threat to Peace Represented by the Armament Policy of West Germany" showed that the key positions in the West German economy, in the

statemachinery, in the judicial system, and in the Wehrmacht, are occupied once again by the same people who gave their active support to the establishment of the fascist regime in Germany and to Hitler's war adventures.

In breach of the Potsdam Agreement the Bonn Federal Republic was included in the aggressive NATO pact system in which German militarism is earmarked to play a leading part in the implementation of aggressive plans. Thus the USA reversed the principles agreed upon in Potsdam and actively promoted the claim for predominance and expansion of revived German militarism, the most aggressive force in Europe. At present the USA is even engaged in handing over nuclear and rocket weapons to those forces who launched two world wars. This is in complete contradiction to the bitter lessons of history which show that German militarism must be stopped in good time if peace is to be maintained.

The three western powers misused their rights to co-occupation and co-administration of Berlin in exactly the same fateful manner, contrary to the Potsdam Agreement, as they misused their supreme authority in West Germany. After the collapse of fascism, proven anti-fascists, supported by the Soviet occupation authority, went to work self-sacrificingly to save Berlin. They laid the foundation for a new democratic order, a unified administration for Berlin, and for its peaceful reconstruction. The active nazis and the war criminals were put to flight, the most important means of production were taken under public administration. On May 17th, 1945, the All-Berlin Administration was established, based upon the anti-fascist democratic united front. On the basis of the united front of the people which found its expression in the coalition of all parties admitted by the four occupation powers in Berlin, work began on reconstruction of the city and the normalization of life.

Contrary to the provisions on the joint administration the western powers divided the unified city administration into an administration of single sectors. The western powers began to establish and practice a separate administration in the western sectors of Berlin, contrary to the decisions of the Allied Commandatura and the Allied Control Council. Instructions given by the western powers had the aim of removing German administrative branches from the united Berlin administration, and making them solely responsible to the relevant commandant.

The western occupation authorities broke up the unified special custodianship for the requisitioned property of war criminals and active National Socialists, and installed private "custodians" who worked independently of the city administration, and who were not subject to any sort of public control. These "custodians" with their large staffs of employees became a sort of economic "shadow government" in the western sectors.

Although the western Supreme Commanders had given the Soviet Supreme Commander a written assurance on June 18th, 1948, that the West German currency would not be introduced into West Berlin, West Berlin was included in the area of the West German separate currency on June 23rd, 1948. The western powers took a decisive step towards partitioning the city by introducing the separate currency, and by maintaining this currency despite the joint decision of the governments of the Four Powers, reached in Moscow on August 30th, 1948, on the restoration of the currency-unity of the whole of Berlin with the rest of the Soviet occupation zone. The partitioning of the city was completed by wrecking the unified democratic administration of all Berlin established in 1945, thus violating its Constitution, by establishing a separate administration in West Berlin and by holding separate elections on December 5th, 1948, in the western sectors of the city instead of all-Berlin elections as provided by the Constitution.

In 1950 the three western powers introduced the so-called Little Occupation Statute in their sectors in breach of the Four Power agreements. With the encouragement of the western powers and under the protection of the occupation regime which they maintain, the revenge-seeking, militarist and fascist forces gained in strength in West Berlin. In the West Berlin city administration alone more than 28,000 officials of the fascist state machinery have been restored to their former posts. More

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than one third of all members of the West Berlin police force are former members of the Nazi Party or the fascist SS. In the judicial system more than 50 per cent of all officials are former members of the Nazi Party or judges and prosecutors who served in Hitler's terror courts. More than 80 fascist and militarist soldiers' and "old comrades" associations exist in West Berlin. Recruiting for the West German NATO army is in full swing in West Berlin. At present nearly 20,000 West Berlin citizens are serving in the ranks of the West German Wehrmacht.

By the policy which they have pursued in West Germany and West Berlin since 1945, the three western powers have brutally broken the agreements of the Anti-Hitler Coalition to which they appended their signatures. Thus they have lost every justification for claiming rights under these arrangements. A person who refuses to carry out all principal duties implied by an agreement cannot claim rights which are inseparably linked with the obligations imposed by such an agreement. Moreover, there is no other legal basis to which the western powers may appeal.

Established International Law does not recognize any unlimited right of the victor. Any occupation must serve a legitimate purpose, otherwise the right to self-determination of the nations would be without any meaning. As regards Germany this purpose which corresponds to established International Law, that is to say the elimination of German militarism and imperialism, was laid down in the Potsdam Agreement.

By breaking the agreements of the Anti-Hitler Coalition the western powers themselves have destroyed the legal basis for their rights of co-administration and co-occupation in Berlin. The settlement on occupation and administration of Berlin by the Four Powers is an inseparable part of the overall policy on the German question established in a number of Four Power agreements. The agreements on Berlin cannot be understood or explained if removed from this complex: the unilateral abandonment of this joint policy by the western powers deprived the agreements on Berlin of their sense and their legal force. This means for the three western powers that they must either return to the principles of the Potsdam Agreement, and implement them, or they must abandon the exercise of the rights which they have long since forfeited. For West Berlin this means the liquidation of the occupation regime and the withdrawal of the troops of the three

West German Court Won't Prosecute Anti-Semite

The Upper Provincial Court of Hamburg, West Germany, has quashed the case of an anti-Semitic publicist against whom charges had been filed by the public prosecutor, it was disclosed on January 9th.

A Hamburger named Friedrich Nieland had written a pamphlet stating that it was "an incredible lie" to say that Hitler had gassed and killed six million Jews. The lie had been invented and spread by "international Jewry", the writer claimed. "No Jew should be allowed to occupy any responsible position in the Government, in political parties, in banking or in business".

The Hamburg court ordered the quashing of the case, on the grounds that the pamphlet "only attacks

international Jewry, and not the Jewish people as such".

Herr Max Brauer, Social Democratic Lord Mayor of Hamburg, made a special trip to Bonn to discuss the case with Chancellor Adenauer on January 9th. "This case will cause mistrust in foreign countries," Brauer told newsmen. "After all, we rely on the goodwill of the west." The discussions with Adenauer were marked by the presence of one of Hitler's leading experts on the Jewish question, State Secretary Hans Globke, who himself wrote the official Nazi legal commentary to the Nuremberg Laws, the laws which provided the legal basis for the German campaign of extermination against the Jewish people.

western powers. The maintenance of the occupation regime, and a further stay of western troops in West Berlin under breach of the obligations of the Potsdam Agreement mean an intervention contrary to International Law.

After the western zones of Germany had been split off, and after the establishment of a West German separate state by the western powers, the German Democratic Republic was established on the territory of the former Soviet occupation zone as an implementation of the national right to self-determination of the German people. Under the agreements of the Anti-Hitler coalition, all Berlin belonged after 1945 to the territory of the Soviet occupation zone, and therefore after 1949 to the German Democratic Republic.

The USSR which had supreme authority in the whole of the Soviet occupation zone, including the whole of Berlin, handed over to the organs of the German Democratic Republic the administrative functions hitherto exercised by the Soviet Union in declarations on October 10th, 1949, and November 11th, 1949, immediately after the establishment of the German Democratic Republic. This included the transfer of administrative functions to the German democratic organs in Berlin.

In the course of the following years, with the step-by-step ending of the occupation, the Government of the USSR transferred to the German Democratic Republic all rights which it had continued to exercise for the time being. The German

Democratic Republic thus enjoys sovereign rights over the territory of the former Soviet occupation zone, the territory of which became the state territory of the German Democratic Republic in 1949. This territory is subject to her unlimited sovereignty.

This fact has been finally confirmed in the state treaty concluded between the German Democratic Republic and the USSR in Moscow on September 20th, 1955, and in the subsequent exchange of letters between Dr. Lothar Bolz, Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, and V. A. Zorin, Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR, which are based upon the sovereignty of the German Democratic Republic and its sovereign rights in Berlin and with regard to Berlin.

The agreements concluded between the USSR and the German Democratic Republic in this exchange of letters took into account the fact that West Berlin is temporarily illegally occupied by troops of the western powers, and in the interests of international détente the German Democratic Republic expressed agreement that Soviet troops stationed in the German Democratic Republic should temporarily supervise the traffic of the troops and goods pertaining to the garrisons of the three western powers stationed in West Berlin over the communication routes of the German Democratic Republic. The entire traffic of persons and goods between West Berlin and West Germany and other states, pertaining to the supply of the West Berlin population and the West Berlin

economy has already since 1949 been within the exclusive competence of the German Democratic Republic.

The policy of the western powers and of the ruling circles in West Germany and West Berlin has created in the heart of the German Democratic Republic, in West Berlin, a highly abnormal situation. Under the protection and with the active support of the western powers, particularly the USA and of the occupation regime, which is illegally maintained by their troops of intervention. West Berlin has become the most dangerous source of tension in Europe.

It is significant that the ruling circles in West Berlin, among them also Brandt, Mayor of West Berlin, have repeatedly described West Berlin, this part of the capital of the German Democratic Republic illegally occupied by the western powers, as having the role of "front-line city" or of "disturber of the peace". These circles have even gone so far as to praise West Berlin as the "cheapest atom bomb" of the western powers. It is impossible to claim seriously that the present position of West Berlin as "disturber of the peace" has anything in common with the goals which formed the basis for occupation by the Four Powers in 1945.

From West Berlin the cold war is waged against the German Democratic Republic and the other states of the socialist camp.

At present more than 60 bureaus of foreign secret services and organisations of agents and spies exist on West Berlin territory. These organisations have the task of organising subversion and sabotage directed against the German Democratic Republic. The activity of these organisations is aided by the fact that an open frontier and unhindered traffic exist between West Berlin and the democratic part of Berlin: this makes it easier to funnel agents and saboteurs into the German Democratic Republic and the other socialist states.

Such acts of provocation produce an unbearable situation, and continually conjure up new complications. A sovereign state such as the German Democratic Republic cannot be expected to tolerate a situation in which subversive and espionage activity directed against itself and against allied states such as the Soviet Union, the Czechoslovak Republic and the Polish People's Republic, emanates from its own territory. Such a situation endangers peace in Europe and the world, and continually contributes to an increase in tension in Germany.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic and the City Administration of Greater Berlin have never accepted the abnormal situation in West Berlin. In many proposals they have expressed their readiness to help banish the dangers resulting from the situation in West Berlin. In accordance with this point of view, the Government of the German Democratic Republic believes that an ending of the occupation regime illegally maintained by the western powers, and a termination of the "front-line city" policy in West Berlin, would be of greatest importance for the maintenance of peace and for the reunification of Germany on a peaceful and democratic basis, and cannot longer be delayed.

After thorough consultations with the Government of the German Democratic Republic, the Government of the USSR has made constructive proposals aimed at eliminating the illegal occupation regime, and ending the misuse of West Berlin as NATO bridgehead.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic emphasizes that the most natural solution, which would accord with the legal situation in Berlin, would be to unite that part of the City which is occupied by the western powers with the democratic part. That would mean that the whole of the City is within the sovereign power of the German Democratic Republic. The fact that West Berlin belongs to the German Democratic Republic is also not affected by the result of municipal elections as

recently held in West Berlin. If an opposition party wins the majority of votes in municipal elections this does not mean that such municipality is excluded from the territory of the state which it belongs to.

Since the governments of the western powers are not at present ready to agree to such a legitimate solution, and since in addition as a result of the policy of the western powers a social system has developed in West Berlin which differs basically from that in the German Democratic Republic, the Government of the Soviet Union proposed the status of a demilitarised Free City for West Berlin. Neither any other state, nor one of the two German states, should interfere in the affairs of this Free City, and West Berlin for its part would have to accept the obligation not to permit on its territory subversive activity aimed against the German Democratic Republic and other states. Such a status for West Berlin could be recognized and guaranteed by the Four Powers and also by the two German states. In addition the United Nations Organisation could participate in a suitable form in guaranteeing this status. There can be no doubt that such guarantees would ensure the free decision of the people of West Berlin.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic agrees to this proposal, and is ready to do its best to help to implement it. To agree to the establishment of a demilitarized Free City on its territory is a generous concession. The Government is ready to make this concession, since this serves the maintenance of peace and helps to normalize the situation in Berlin.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic believes that the creation of a demilitarized Free City of West Berlin, freed of foreign troops and possessing a social system in accordance with the wishes of the West Berlin population, could provide opportunities for normalizing the relations not only between the two parts of the City, but also between the German Democratic Republic and West Berlin.

In addition, a demilitarized Free City of West Berlin could contribute to a great extent to an understanding between the two German states and normalization of the relations between them: elimination of sources of conflict means the creation of more favourable conditions for preparing the reunification of Germany. The experiences of West Berlin as a demilitarized Free City would provide important conclusions and lessons for the establishment of a confederation of the two German states.

The creation of a demilitarized Free City of West Berlin would open

Nazis in the News

Public protests in West Germany have forced the suspension from office of two leading officials of the Restitution Office for the Hesse Province. The two officials, Herr Spaeth and Herr Bauer, had repeatedly aired their anti-Semitic sentiments and sung Nazi songs in their office. The task of the Restitution Office was to grant compensation to victims of Nazi persecution, largely Jews.

In Schleswig Holstein, a leading official of the education department, Lothar Stielau, has been suspended from office on similar charges. In a school magazine Herr Stielau had alleged that the "Diary of Anne Frank", the autobiography of a Jewish girl killed by the Nazis, was a forgery written by people "who want to make millions out of the German defeat".

up favourable vistas for the economic development of West Berlin. Many-sided economic links of the demilitarized Free City of West Berlin with the socialist states and the states of the capitalist world market would create the possibility for a steady upswing in the West Berlin economy, the elimination of unemployment, and the full utilisation of production capacities.

The Government of the USSR has announced that it will transfer to the organs of the German Democratic Republic the functions still exercised by the Soviet forces which are, for the time being, stationed in the German Democratic Republic. The Government of the German Democratic Republic regards this step as an event which takes into consideration the legal situation and the real conditions in Germany and declares its readiness to take into consideration the justified interests of those concerned, and to settle by negotiation all resultant questions.

The conduct hitherto of the organs of the German Democratic Republic in the control of the traffic between West Berlin and West Germany and other states provides proof that the German Democratic Republic does not hinder this traffic. Naturally the organs of the German Democratic Republic cannot permit this traffic to be misused for the transport of hate-propaganda, explosives, and other articles intended for sabotage and subversion against the German Democratic Republic and other states; the transport of such articles has been repeatedly attempted in the past. The fact that during the first nine months of 1958, for example, the German Democratic Republic granted entry permits and transit to more than 118,000 persons from countries which do not belong to the socialist camp, shows that the German Democratic Republic acts in full accordance with normal international practice in such questions.

The proposals of the German Democratic Republic and the USSR for the elimination of the West Berlin source of tension, and for the creation of a demilitarized Free City of West Berlin, have been received by world public opinion with a great degree of attention. The Government of the German Democratic Republic regards this fact as the expression of the interest of the peoples in the maintenance of peace and the lessening of tension in Europe.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic is convinced that every support on the part of the governments of other states for these proposals would be a contribution towards lessening international tension, and would serve the maintenance of peace.

STUDENTS WANT TALKS

Student delegates representing nearly all West German universities have issued a call for talks between the two German states.

This unprecedented step was taken at the "Student Congress against Atomic Arming" which was held at West Berlin's "Free University" on the weekend of January 3rd and 4th.

The conference resolution, adopted by an overwhelming majority, stated: "Such phrases as 'We will not negotiate with Pankow (Democratic Germany, ed.)' must disappear from the political vocabulary. The goals of this quite necessary negotiation, which till now has always been rejected out of hand by the government of the Federal Republic, must be: a) to develop the outlines of a Peace Treaty for Germany, and b) to study all possible forms of an interim

Confederation (between the two German states, ed.)"

The resolution states further that the adoption of atomic weapons by the West German army would be a "decisive hindrance to the relaxation of tension in Central Europe."

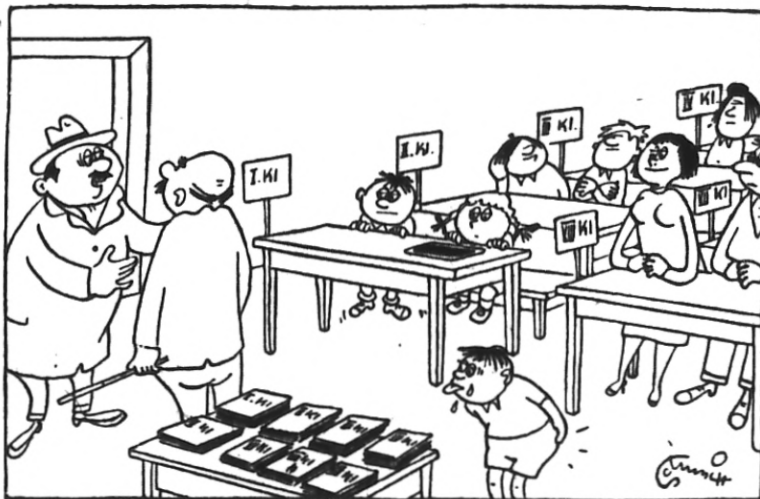
In his speech at the closing rally Manfred Rexin, the chairman of the Congress, emphasized the position of the students: "We refuse to march to destruction with Konrad Adenauer!"

On the preceding night, many of the 320 delegates and their 200 guests had visited East Berlin to exchange opinions with fellow students there. Later, the Congress also adopted a resolution urging the student organisations of both parts of Germany to prepare a united congress against atomic weapons for the future.

Little Old School . . .

The caricature below needs a word of explanation. At present there are, in West Germany, no fewer than 8000 village elementary schools in which all children between the ages of 6 and 14 are taught by one teacher together in one classroom. The number of such schools, which naturally provide a poor standard of education, has increased rapidly in the past few years, partly because of cuts in the education budget, and

partly because in some areas, particularly Bavaria, existing multi-class schools have been shut down and separate one-class schools opened for Protestant and Catholic pupils. In Bavaria alone 700 such one-class schools have recently come into existence. In the German Democratic Republic, the number of one-class schools has been reduced from 245 in 1951 to 23 in 1957: by 1960 such schools will be completely eliminated.



"At last, Teacher Mueller, the authorities have taken action on the impossible conditions in this one-class school of yours. In future the Catholics and the Protestants will each have their own separate one-class school."

(from "Berliner Zeitung", East Berlin)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

"GERMAN REPORT is always carrying on about the nazi war criminals back in office. What would you do with these characters? Shoot them all?" That is the substance of several letters which I have received lately from readers in Britain.

I am glad to say that it is never likely to be my job to decide what should be done with these individuals, who range all the way from concentration camp guards who actually did the dirty work up to distinguished gentlemen like Dr Hans Globke, Chancellor Adenauer's personal assistant, who never sullied their hands with blood but "only" provided the legal framework in the form of the Nuremberg Laws.

But the question is of course quite justified. I think the answer must be that the time for shooting or hanging most of these persons has in fact probably passed: but this very certainly does not mean that we should be prepared to tolerate their re-emergence in leading positions in the West German Government, the new Wehrmacht, and in industry. It would still be a scandal if these gentlemen escaped scot free after committing their stupendous and frightful crimes: but if they were in fact doing an honest day's work today as, let us say, night watchmen or petrol pump attendants, there would not be much to be said.

Curious Case

And this brings us to the curious case of Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski, former SS General and one of the major war criminals in nazi-occupied Poland. It is a frightening commentary on the state of West Germany today that the case of Herr Bach-Zelewski is in fact a "curious case". With his record, one would expect him to be a general in the new Wehrmacht, or at least a member of parliament; but the fact of the matter is that he is today a night-watchman in Nuremberg.

And since he is a night watchman, in which position he obviously exerts very little influence for good or ill on the world at large, there would be nothing more to be said if it were not for the fact that it has to be explained how it comes about that he is working in such a humble job. The "old-boy network" works with oiled precision in the case of so many former leading nazis: why has it not made a responsible post available to Bach-Zelewski?

By John Peet

The solution to this riddle may be found in the fact that in 1946, when the major nazi war criminals were tried at Nuremberg, Bach-Zelewski "let the side down". Nearly all the leading nazis rounded up at the end of the war spent their time denying everything; and if they could not deny things, then they put the blame on Hitler, who was safely dead. For some reason, hitherto unexplained, Bach-Zelewski did not join in this game. He testified, both in interrogations and in the Nuremberg Court, as to what had really happened during the nazi days, and firmly fixed the blame on the criminals in the box.

Never Forgiven

And for this, he has never been forgiven. For this reason, he is today going his dreary rounds as a night-watchman, instead of occupying a comfortable chair as a director in an armaments firm.

At least he was going his rounds until a few weeks ago, when the West German police picked him up, and charged him with murder. Bach-Zelewski had been responsible for the murder of many thousands of Polish civilians during the war, particularly during the suppression of the Warsaw rising in 1944, but these murders had never worried the West German police. He was picked up at the end of 1958 because of accusations that he had killed a lieutenant of Himmler's SS, a certain Anton von Hohenberg und Buchwald, in July 1934.

Frame-Up?

Did I hear someone whisper "frame-up"? If you examine the facts, it certainly looks as though the neo-nazi network in West Germany has finally found a way of settling accounts with the man who blew the gaff in 1946.

Just to avoid any misunderstanding, I should like to make it plain that I have no sympathy for Bach-Zelewski. He is a scoundrel and a murderer, and anyone interested can look up some of the details of his wartime career in Gerald Reitlinger's book "SS: Alibi of a Nation" published in London by Heinemann in 1956. But it all does seem rather queer.

Incidentally, in the course of my search through the dusty documents for the details of the case of Herr Bach-Zelewski, I came upon an inter-

esting reference to General Heinz Reinefarth, the butcher of Warsaw, who was recently elected a member of the Schleswig Holstein Provincial Parliament. During the preparations for the Nuremberg Trial, a Polish war crimes commission interrogated Bach-Zelewski on the events during the Warsaw rising in 1944. Here is the testimony which Bach-Zelewski gave to this commission on January 28th 1946:

"When I arrived in Warsaw I found that the civilian population, including women and children, were being driven together in the cemetery, and that troops under Reinefarth's command were shooting down these defenceless civilians. I told Reinefarth that such an action was contrary to all sense and all morals, but Reinefarth replied that he was acting on orders from Hitler and Himmler which stated . . . that all insurgents should be shot after capture, that the non-combatant section of the population was to be liquidated without exception, and that the entire city was to be razed to the ground."

So today Reinefarth is a member of a West German Provincial Parliament.

TV Ads Guyed

But let us turn to happier subjects. Anyone who lives in an area where there is commercial TV will know just how trying those advertising jingles can be. There is no advertising on East German TV, but in the areas of the Democratic Republic near to West Germany or to West Berlin, the West German TV stations can be received, and these broadcast a concentrated barrage of "hard sell" jingles at certain hours.

On New Year's Eve, the East German network decided to do something about it. The technicians made tele-recordings of some of the more ghastly advertising shorts, and played them back accompanied by slightly adapted texts and jingles. It was a roaring success: the spot remover was recommended for removing the brown spots on the waistcoats of certain Bonn politicians, and the hair fixative was guaranteed to keep hair smooth and unruffled even under the heavy steel helmet of the West German Wehrmacht.

If you too suffer from TV ads, just try fixing new texts to them some time.